

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11. (Canceled)

12. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

13. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence spanning positions 18-1502 of the claim 12 (SEQ ID NO:3).

14. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of claim 12 (SEQ ID NO:2).

15. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising the following nucleotide sequences in operable combination:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 1-23 of SEQ ID NO:2,

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 24-219 of SEQ ID NO:2,

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence linker,

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 225-259 of SEQ ID NO:2,

(e) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence linker,

(f) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 263-278 of SEQ ID NO:2,

(f) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence of a CH₂ region of Fc, and

(g) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence of a CH₃ region of Fc

16. (new) The nucleotide sequence of claim 15 wherein (f) consists of a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 279-388 of SEQ ID NO:2 and (g) consists of a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 389-495 of SEQ ID NO:2.

17. (new) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence of claim 14.

18. (new) The expression vector of claim 17, said expression vector being a plasmid.

19. (new) An isolated host cell comprising an expression vector of claim 17.

20. (new) The host cell of claim 19 wherein said host cell is a eukaryotic cell or a prokaryotic cell.

21. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

22. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence spanning positions 21-938 of the nucleotide sequence of claim 21 (SEQ ID NO:7).

23. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of claim 21 (SEQ ID NO:6).

24. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising the following nucleotide sequences in operable combination:

(a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 1-59 of SEQ ID NO:6,

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence linker,

(c) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 65-260 of SEQ ID NO:6,

(d) a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence linker,

(e) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence spanning amino acid positions 266-300 of SEQ ID NO:6, and

(f) a nucleotide sequence encoding a marker of more than one histidine.

25. (new) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence of claim 23.

26. (new) The expression vector of claim 25, said expression vector being a plasmid.

27. (new) An isolated host cell comprising an expression vector of claim 25.

28. (new) The host cell of claim 27 wherein said host cell is a eukaryotic cell or a prokaryotic cell.

29. (new) A protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

30. (new) A protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

31. (new) A protein complex comprising a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6; and at least one of protein A and a fluorophore.

32. (new) An isolated host cell comprising a vector comprising a nucleotide sequence coding for the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 and a vector comprising a nucleotide sequence of claim 14.

33. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising, in operable combination, a nucleotide sequence coding for a signal peptide of IA^d, a nucleotide sequence coding for IA^d_α, a nucleotide sequence coding for an amino acid linker sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for an acidic leucine zipper, a nucleotide sequence coding for an amino acid linker sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a hinge region, a nucleotide sequence coding for a CH₂ region of Fc, and a nucleotide sequence coding for a CH₃ region of Fc.

34. (new) A nucleotide sequence comprising, in operable combination, a nucleotide sequence coding for a leader sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for β1, a nucleotide sequence coding for a LACK peptide, a nucleotide sequence coding for an amino acid linker sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a thrombin site, a nucleotide sequence coding for an amino acid linker sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a IAβ^d(β1) amino acid sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a IAβ^d(β₂) amino acid sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a linker amino acid sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a basic leucine zipper and a nucleotide sequence encoding a marker of more than one histidine.

35. (new) An expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence of claim 33 or a nucleotide sequence coding for a leader sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for β1, a nucleotide sequence coding for a LACK peptide, a nucleotide sequence coding for an amino acid linker sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a thrombin site, a nucleotide sequence coding for an amino acid linker sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a IAβ^d(β1) amino acid sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a IAβ^d(β₂) amino acid sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a linker amino acid

sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a basic leucine zipper and a nucleotide sequence encoding a marker of more than one histidine

36. (new) The expression vector of claim 35, said expression vector being a plasmid.

37. (new) An isolated host cell comprising an expression vector of claim 35.

38. (new) The host cell of claim 37 wherein said host cell is a eukaryotic cell or a prokaryotic cell.

39. (new) A protein complex comprising a protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence of claim 33,

a protein encoded by the nucleotide sequence coding for a leader sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for β 1, a nucleotide sequence coding for a LACK peptide, a nucleotide sequence coding for an amino acid linker sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a thrombin site, a nucleotide sequence coding for an amino acid linker sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a $\text{IA}\beta^d(\beta_1)$ amino acid sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a $\text{IA}\beta^d(\beta_2)$ amino acid sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a linker amino acid sequence, a nucleotide sequence coding for a basic leucine zipper and a nucleotide sequence encoding a marker of more than one histidine, and

protein A and, optionally a fluorophore.